

**No more excuses, EC must probe financial paper's 1MDB claims, says
PKR
The Malaysian Insider
Jun 21, 2015**

The Election Commission (EC) should immediately probe claims that 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) indirectly bankrolled Datuk Seri Najib Razak's 2013 election campaign, PKR said today.

PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar said this in reference to a report by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) a few days ago on the topic.

Nurul Izzah said it would also lend credence to EC's independence should it charge Najib under the Election Offences Act 1954, specifically under Section 10(a), which covers bribery before, during and after elections with the intention to buy votes.

"Should the EC Chair come out with further excuses justifying 1MDB-linked slush funds for election campaigning, rather than give us an independent report based on a mature, uninfluenced and thorough investigation, then we might as well ask the EC to officially join the BN coalition," she said in a statement today.

WSJ reported on Thursday that debt-ridden 1MDB had indirectly supported Najib's campaign by purchasing power assets from Genting Group in 2012 for five times more than its worth.

Genting then allegedly donated part of the earnings to a foundation controlled by Najib. According to WSJ, the foundation, Yayasan Rakyat 1Malaysia (YR1M), then announced several charity projects that Najib later brought up during his campaign.

"Though set up to help underprivileged Malaysians through education and sport, this charity soon got involved in spending that appeared designed to help Najib retain power in the May 2013 election," said WSJ.

In a response to WSJ, the Prime Minister's Office said the claims were baseless.

Nurul Izzah demanded today that Najib disclose financial transactions of YR1M, including and not limited to sources of funds, and where these funds were being channelled to in order to remove any doubts.

"I also believe that this revelation warrants an investigation against Barisan Nasional to find out whether they are in breach of the Election Offences Act.

"Should they be found to be liable, people responsible should face justice - and the buck certainly stops with YR1M's chairman, Datuk Seri Najib Razak," she said.

The Lembah Pantai MP also wanted Malaysia to immediately look into election financing reforms, and the need to have a law to regulate financing by political parties.

She pointed out in the United Kingdom, parties have to record the donations and loan they receive, check that the monies are from a permissible source and report larger donations and loans to the Electoral Commission.

In Great Britain, its Electoral Commission publishes these donation and loan reports on their online database to ensure there is transparency about the funding for parties.

However, she lamented that in Malaysia there is no such action, despite Parliament approving 22 recommendations by the Select Committee on Electoral Reform for the EC to implement in 2012.

"Will the prime minister now lend his weight to add further mockery of our institutions and governance or would he lend his weight to ensure that justice is seen to be done. Regardless of his move and answers, Malaysians must not allow for a global scale mockery of government business," she added. – June 21, 2015.

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